

In some cases it was possible to secure specimens that still retained some of the old formerly floating leaves at the tip of the long stems, yet had erect stems from the same root, bearing the hairy leaves and foliaceous sheaths of *P. Hartwrightii*.

In early October when the water was at its lowest point, the plants farthest up the bank had lost nearly all trace of the *amphibium* form, while lower down all stages of transformation could be seen between that and the plants still floating in the water, true *amphibium*.

The fact that in this case the same root that produced typical *P. amphibium* when under water, produced typical *P. Hartwrightii* when left exposed for a time above water, would seem to prove that *P. Hartwrightii* is not a distinct species but a terrestrial form of *P. amphibium*. It is nothing unusual that this should be the case, as many other species are known to take different forms under such conditions. *Ranunculus multifidus* and its var. *terrestris*, and *Myriophyllum ambiguum* and its var. *limosum*, are illustrations of such variations.

From the scarcity of flowers and fruit in the terrestrial plants of this *Polygonum*, it would be inferred that the species was in its normal habitat when growing in water. Although *P. Hartwrightii* in the locality where I have observed the transitions above described, is obviously only a biological state of *P. amphibium*, this state appears to become in other places the habitual form, so that it requires some taxonomic recognition. It cannot be regarded as a distinct species, and it may be best to call it *P. amphibium*, var. **Hartwrightii** as it appears closely analogous to the varieties of *Ranunculus* and *Myriophyllum*, mentioned above. — C. H. BISSELL, Southington, Connecticut.

SALERATUS AS A PROTECTION AGAINST RHUS-POISONING.—In the matter of Ivy-poisoning, discussed by Franz Pfaff, M. D., in the March RHODORA, I have had a little experience which may be of interest to those readers who have been kept from exploring rich floral fields through fear of *Rhus venenata*, the poison Dogwood. Not far from my home, on the boundary between Southbridge and Charlton, Massachusetts, there is a large sphagnous tract, known as Cedar Swamp. A good-sized pond lies concealed in it, and where the road crosses the swamp one can from the roadside run a pole down many feet without reaching bottom; yet the tangle of roots is so thick that by exercising a little care it is possible to walk upon

the surface and reach all parts of the swamp. The vegetation is very rich and includes among many other plants the following attractive and interesting species: *Saracenia purpurea* L., *Kalmia glauca* Ait., *Vaccinium Oxycoccus* L., *Azalea viscosa* L., *Cypripedium acaule* Ait., (I have been told that the white Lady's Slipper grows there, but have not found it yet), *Calla palustris* L., *Trillium erythrocarpum* Michx., *Larix Americana* Michx., *Chamaecyparis sphaeroidea* Spach, *Menyanthes trifoliata* Town., *Peltandra Virginica* Raf., *Clintonia borealis* Raf., and occasionally *Habenaria fimbriata* R. Br. Indeed, I find some plant new to me every time I go through Cedar Swamp.

Being very susceptible to Ivy and Dogwood poison I was long deterred from exploring this rich collecting ground, but I can now ramble over it with perfect impunity. I take with me a bottle filled with a strong solution of saleratus (the common kind used in cooking). When I come out of the swamp I wash my hands, face, and neck — wherever it is possible that the poison has touched the skin — with the solution. Since doing so I have never been poisoned and can roam through the place at will. I take no needless risks and am always careful not to touch the Dogwood if I see it. However, it is so thick that it would be impossible to avoid it altogether.— L. E. AMMIDOWN, Southbridge, Massachusetts.

RARE PLANTS ABOUT NEW BEDFORD.—In addition to some rare plants previously mentioned in RHODORA by the writer, the following unusual in this vicinity may be worthy of notice. *Cuphea viscosissima*, Jacq. was found last fall in Dartmouth (but a few miles from New Bedford) in a field near the seashore. A considerable number of specimens were obtained. The range of this plant is given as Rhode Island, and west and south. The above extends it into southeastern Massachusetts. It would be interesting to know if it has been found elsewhere in the State. *Scabiosa australis*, Wulf. was found here three or four seasons ago, and on revisiting the location last summer I obtained several more specimens; the capitate head of flowers on a long peduncle, resembles somewhat *Mentha aquatica*.

A fine patch of *Symphoricarpos vulgaris*, Michx. was found about seven miles from the city by the roadside; it did not appear to be an escape from cultivation as it was half a mile from a dwelling on one side, and more than a mile from one on the other side.